

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action of December 1, 2004 in which the following objections were raised: Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruger (U.S. Pat. No. 4,576,432).

Applicant has amended Claims 1-3 and added new Claims 4-7.

CLAIMS 1-3 REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruger (U.S. Pat. No. 4,576,432). The Examiner has cited the thermal imaging system disclosed by Ruger as having panning and tilting capability provided by aiming head 11 in Fig. 5. The Applicant concurs with that characterization to the limited extent stated herein.

The Applicant has amended Independent Claim 1 and by extension remaining rejected Claims 2-3 dependent thereon to include the limitation of two discrete mirrors rotatable concentrically about the optical axis one of which pans and the other of which tilts the optical input to the objective of a camera as follows:

"an optical input to an objective of a camera...

a panning mirror rotationally coupled to the camera ...for panning the optical input to the objective of the camera about the optical axis; and

a tilting mirror radially displaced from the panning mirror about the optical axis, and rotationally coupled to the camera for rotation concentric with the panning mirror about the optical axis, and the tilting mirror optically coupled with the panning mirror to tilt the optical input in selectable amounts." (Applicant's amended Claim 1, emphasis added)

The Ruger reference has two mirrors 25 and 15 but the first mirror 25 performs neither a panning or tilting function. On its own mirror 25 in relation to thermal imager 24 serves only

as a beam bender. Even when thermal imager 24 is rotated, no panning of the optical input results since mirror 25 remains in a fixed location. A single mirror 15 and housing 11 combination is used to provide a limited range of panning and tilting.

The Applicant's claimed invention by contrast provides a broader range of panning and tilting than the Ruger reference with such capability brought about by the novel arrangement of the discrete panning and tilting mirrors. Such arrangement is not disclosed by the Ruger reference and is not obvious in view of same since the Ruger reference teaches only a single mirror for panning and tilting. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection as to amended Independent Claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as amended dependent Claims 2-3 for the reasons discussed above and for other reasons of independent significance.

NEW CLAIMS 4-7

New Claims 4-7 have been added. Their limitations are supported throughout the specification and drawings. No new subject matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, and the amendments to the Claims, Applicant respectfully submits that all remaining Claims 1-7 have been placed in a condition for allowance, and requests that they be allowed. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1338 (Docket No. STGUP008).

Respectfully submitted,

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